

STATE OF MARYLAND

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

Shari T. Wilson, Secretary

**BILL NO:** House Bill 68

**COMMITTEE:** Environmental Matters

**POSITION:** Support

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TITLE:

Environment – Grants – Small Businesses and Certified Minority Business Enterprises

**BILL ANALYSIS:**

The legislation requires that applicants for “Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Nonpoint Source Fund” capital grants, administered by the Maryland Department of the Environment, demonstrate that the process used to solicit M/WBE enterprise is fair and open and that certain steps were taken to include and provide opportunities for small, minority and women businesses to participate in capital projects with grants that are more than \$500,000.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:**

MDE supports HB 68. The M/WBE participation goals are an integral component of MDE’s Grant and Loan Programs for capital projects. A primary goal of the programs within MDE is to ensure that the process used to solicit M/WBE enterprise is fair, open and provides opportunities for minority and women businesses enterprises to participate. This legislation makes the application of M/WBE procedures consistent with all other existing State grant capital programs administered by MDE. This legislation requires certain steps to taken by the grant recipient and prime contractor to encourage M/WBE to participate in capital projects that use funds from the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Nonpoint Source Fund Program. The legislation exempts projects where the total grant is less than \$500,000.

The 2008 session included a similar bill for MDE state grant capital projects (HB 628), which passed and is now law. The Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Nonpoint Source Fund is a new grant program (enacted in 2008 Session) and this legislation will make the Small, Minority and Women Business Enterprise requirements consistent with other State grant programs administered by MDE.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,**  
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